

few senators, especially out in the rural area, there are people that still own farms and move into town, buy a home, and they got a homestead exemption, and they still own the farm. We could make that that the...if the farm was transferred in the last 5 or 10 years that they would not be eligible. But what we are doing here is just saying this is what is going to be done, and not giving any guidelines whatsoever. I think it is a good idea to come with an asset test, but certainly not with a simple amendment to LB 1258 because there are ways, many ways to get around that, and I just gave you an example. By turning my property over to my children, I still pay the bills, I still pay the taxes, but the property will be on their name, and then I would be eligible for the homestead exemption, and that is wrong. I'm not saying that I should be entitled to it. As I said before, and Senator Lundy you mentioned that I would be entitled to it. I will never be entitled to a homestead exemption because of the taxable pensions that we receive and the interest in dividends which is very small, incidentally. But I am still over the income guidelines. So I think what we are doing here is too hastily. I think for this one year, with a one year sunset on the 90-10, as Senator Johnson suggested, and not go with any other changes until they come up with a comprehensive change, and it might even be the one that I opposed a long time ago, it was tried here, a circuit breaker. So whatever they decide, we'll have to talk about it next year, but certainly not make all these changes this year. Let's wait for the study.

PRESIDENT: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Inasmuch as there has been a fair amount of discussion on this asset test, Mr. Speaker, and I can see there is some sympathy for it, I thought I would at least make reference to current asset tests that exist in Nebraska. I mean an asset test is not something as totally unfamiliar to Nebraska terrain. But when an elderly person goes finally to the Nebraska Department of Social Services and applies for Medicaid, that elderly person has got to fill out about a five page questionnaire that carefully lists every asset that elderly person has. And elderly persons find that extraordinarily painful. And they also find the limitations placed by the Nebraska Department of Social Services on their assets to be extraordinarily low. And then they also find out about a two year transfer of asset rule that exists. And it goes on, and on, and on. And I am just simply saying, as Senator Labeledz has said, and Senator Smith has said, and others have said, before